REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-17, which were all of the then pending claims, under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being fully anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,615,166 (Guheen, et al.).

Independent Claims 1, 7 and 13 are being amended to better define the subject matters of these claims. New Claim 18, which is dependent from Claim 1, is being added to describe preferred features of the invention.

For the reasons advanced below, Claims 1-18 patentably distinguish over the prior art and are allowable. The Examiner is, hence, respectfully asked to reconsider and to withdraw the rejection of Claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. 102 and to allow these claims and new Claim 18.

Generally, Claims 1-18 patentably distinguish over the prior art and are allowable because the prior art does not disclose or render obvious the use of the plurality of databases, as described in independent Claims 1, 7 and 13 to help manage an enterprise-wide migration from one network to another network.

The present invention relates generally to an integrated set of tools and processes to manage an enterprise-wide technology migration. As discussed in detail in the present application, many corporations and other enterprises have very extensive information technology or telecommunications systems or networks. From time to time, it is necessary or desirable to make extensive or fundamental changes in or to these networks or systems.

These migrations can be very difficult, complicated an expensive to manage. This is because of the large number of pieces of equipments involved, the disparate nature of these pieces of equipment, and the complex relationship between the different pieces or types of equipment.

The present invention effectively addresses these challenge. Generally, this is done by providing a configurable, integrated and end-to-end set of processes and corresponding electronic toolsuite to manage effectively large-scale enterprise wide information technology-related or telecommunications related migrations.

More specifically, the present invention, in one embodiment, provides a method of managing an enterprise-wide migration from one type of network to another type of network. This method comprises the steps of creating instances of databases for an enterprise-wide migration from one type of network to another type of network, for billing and reporting, and repositing reports. The method comprises the further steps of gathering information on the organization, location, hardware, and software affected by said migration into a database for planning said migration; and building an inventory of the affected hardware and software using an inventory tracking tool or an inventory mailer.

This method comprises the further steps of ordering migration hardware and software based on said planning and said inventory, using an inventory tool; and tracking and billing labor, hardware, and software as installed, using said billing and reporting database. Also, agents for said creating, gathering, building and tracking are enabled using an agent control facility.

As indicated above, the prior art does not disclose or render obvious the use of the plurality of databases, as described above, to help manage an enterprise-wide migration from one network to another network.

In particular, Guheen, et al, which is the only reference relied on by the Examiner to reject the claims, discloses a procedure for conveying information regarding a web architecture framework and for demonstrating priority among components of the architecture. In this procedure, a plurality of

components required for implementation of a predetermined technology is provided. Then, a priority listing of the components is compiled such that the relative position of the components on the priority listing corresponds to a temporal priority among the components. The existing network framework and the components are pictorially represented, and then components of the existing network framework are coded to indicate priority among the components. The components can then be installed in order of their coded priority.

Guheen, et al. is principally directed to displaying information in a concise and well-organized manner, and in particular, for generating such a display of a web architecture framework. Once the display is formed, the system components can be selected according to a defined priority (See column 1, lines 58-67; and column 7, lines 1-10).

The present invention is different. The present invention is directed, not to displaying the components of an architecture, but to migrating an enterprise from one network to another network. In some respects, such a migration can be more complex than simply designing a new network from scratch because, in the case of a migration, existing equipment has to be taken into account. The present invention effectively does this by using a series of databases.

The independent Claims 1, 7 and 13 are being amended to emphasize this aspect of the present invention. In particular, these claims are being amended to indicate expressly that the instances of the databases, set forth in the claims, are for an enterprise-wide migration from one type of network to another type of network.

The use of these databases is of substantial utility because, among other advantages, different databases may be used to keep track of different hardware and software from different employees having different needs.
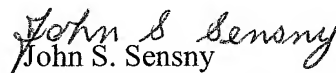
The other reference of record have been reviewed, and these other references, whether considered individually or in combination, also do not disclose or render obvious the use of the plural databases, as described in independent Claims 1, 7 and 13, to help manage an enterprise-wide migration from one network to another network.

In view of the above-discussed differences between Claims 1, 7 and 13 and the prior art, and because of the advantages associated with those differences, Claims 1, 7 and 13 are not anticipated by, and in fact patentably distinguish over, the prior art. Claims 2-6 and 18 are dependent from Claim 1 and patentably distinguish over the prior with Claim 1. Similarly, Claims 8-12 are dependent from Claim 7 and patentably distinguish therewith over the prior art; and claims 14-17 are dependent from, and patentably distinguish over the prior art with, Claim 7.

The Examiner is, accordingly, respectfully asked to reconsider and to withdraw the rejection of Claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. 102, and to allow these claims and new Claim 18.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicants' Attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examine is asked to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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